

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A nail softener for correcting a deformed nail or modifying the structure of a
2 nail modification, containing at least one reducing agent selected from the
3 group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate.
- 1 2. The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is
2 thioglycolate.
- 1 3. The nail softener as defined in claim 2, wherein said reducing agent is
2 ammonium thioglycolate.
- 1 4. The nail softener as defined in claim 1, wherein said reducing agent is
2 subjected to a deodorizing treatment.
- 1 5. An enclosure for an external chemical, comprising:
2 an enclosure body receiving said external chemical therein and having
3 an opening for exposing said external chemical when used;
4 a sealing film for allowing said external chemical to be sealingly
5 enclosed in said external chemical;
6 an adhesive layer provided at the peripheral portion of said opening of
7 said enclosure body; and
8 a releasable film releasably attached to said enclosure body by use of
9 said adhesive layer,
10 wherein after said releasable film is removed, said adhesive layer
11 serves as an adhesive portion for allowing said enclosure body to be
12 attached to a diseased area.
- 1 6. The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said sealing film is attached to
2 said enclosure body by use of said adhesive layer so that said releasable
3 film is served by said sealing film.

- 1 7. The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said sealing film is adapted to
2 be broken or pulled out of said enclosure body so as to allow said external
3 chemical enclosed in said enclosure body to be exposed to the outside
4 thereof.
- 1 8. The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said opening has a size equal
2 to or greater than that of said diseased area.
- 1 9. The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said enclosure body includes
2 a ring-shaped pad, and an external-chemical enclosing pocket located on
3 the top surface of said ring-shaped pad.
- 1 10. The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said external chemical contains
2 at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of cysteine,
3 thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate.
- 1 11. The enclosure as defined in claim 10, wherein said reducing agent is
2 thioglycolate.
- 1 12. The enclosure as defined in claim 11, wherein said reducing agent is
2 ammonium thioglycolate.
- 1 13. The enclosure as defined in claim 10, wherein said reducing agent is
2 subjected to a deodorizing treatment.
- 1 14. The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said external chemical is a
2 mixture of at least one reducing agent selected from the group consisting of
3 cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate, and a curative drug for said
4 diseased area.
- 1 15. The enclosure as defined in claim 5, wherein said external chemical is a
2 curative drug for said diseased area.

- 1 16. A method of correcting a deformed nail, comprising the steps of:
2 applying a nail softener containing at least one reducing agent selected
3 from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycolic acid and thioglycolate,
4 onto a diseased area of a toenail;
5 leaving said diseased area untouched for a given period of time to
6 soften said nail:
7 during or after said leaving step, applying a given force onto said nail
8 to reposition said nail to its normal state; and
9 immobilizing said nail in said repositioned state for a given period of
10 time to hold said repositioned state.